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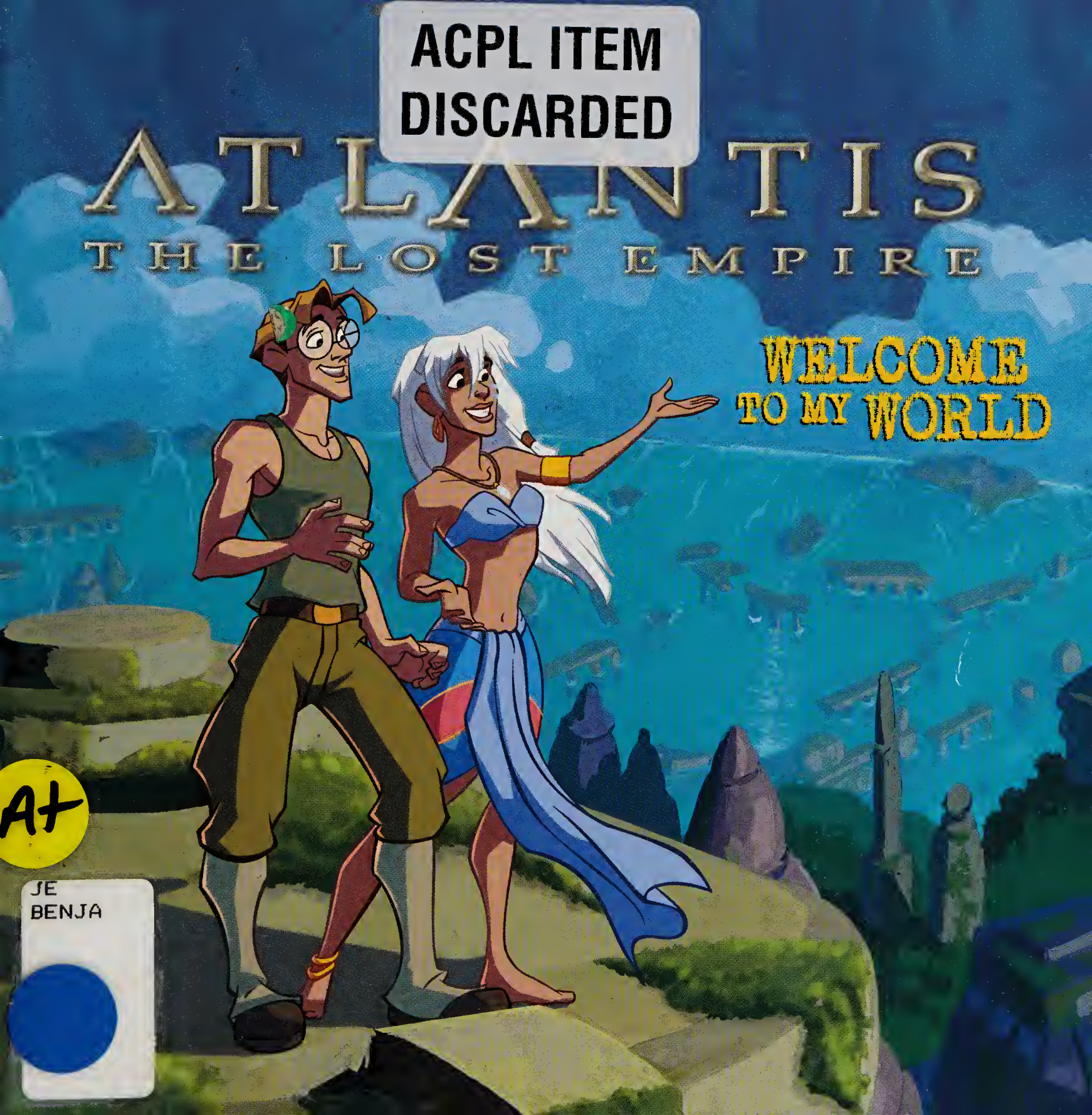
ATLANTIS

THE LOST EMPIRE



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ATLANTIS
THE LOST EMPIRE

WELCOME TO MY WORLD

By Cynthia Benjamin

Illustrated by the Disney Storybook Artists at Global Art Development
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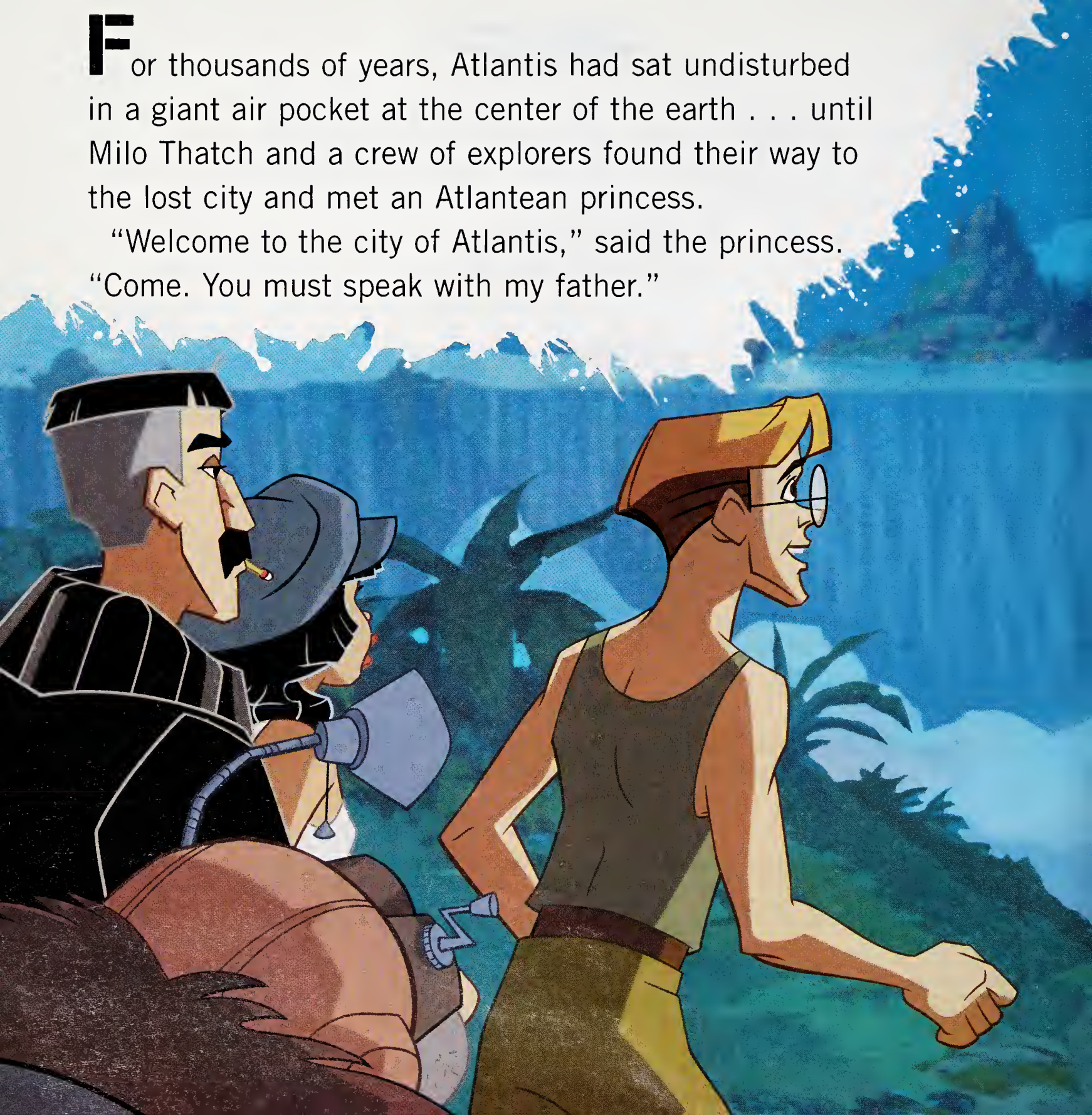
For thousands of years, Atlantis had sat undisturbed in a giant air pocket at the center of the earth . . . until Milo Thatch and a crew of explorers found their way to the lost city and met an Atlantean princess.

"Welcome to the city of Atlantis," said the princess. "Come. You must speak with my father."



The princess led Milo and the others to the king's chambers. The king wanted the outsiders to leave. He would only allow them to stay until morning.

Milo had no time to lose! While he was there, he wanted to learn as much as he could about the lost city.

First Milo had to work up the nerve to talk to the princess. He practiced what he would say. "Look, I have some questions for you, and I'm not leaving this city until they're answered."

The princess had the same idea. She wanted to find out what Milo knew about Atlantis. "I have some questions for you," she said to him. "And you're not leaving the city until they are answered."

"Yeah, well, I . . . okay," said Milo.

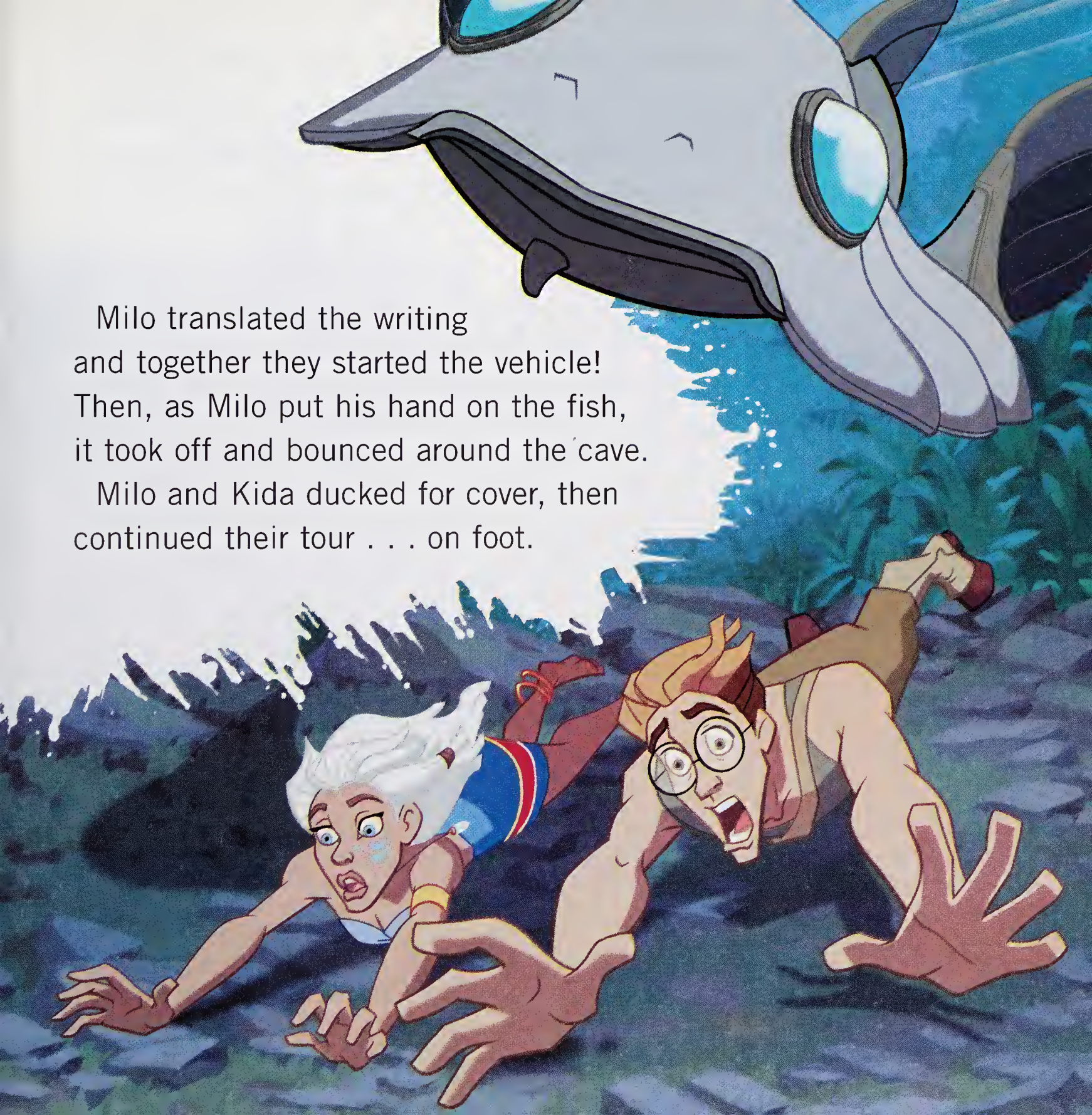
As Milo and the princess walked through the city, they bombarded each other with questions. There was only one problem—they were both talking at the same time!

"Let's do this, okay?" Milo said. "You ask a question. Then I'll ask one."

To start, the princess wanted to know how the explorers had found Atlantis. Milo handed her *The Shepherd's Journal,* an ancient book that had guided them on their journey. The princess was shocked to learn that Milo could read the Atlantean writing inside it. No one in Atlantis could read Atlantean!

The princess took Milo to a hidden cave. Inside was a giant stone fish with Atlantean words carved on it. "It looks like some sort of vehicle," Milo said, studying the writing.

"Yes," said Kida, "but no matter what I try, it will not respond."



Milo translated the writing
and together they started the vehicle!
Then, as Milo put his hand on the fish,
it took off and bounced around the cave.

Milo and Kida ducked for cover, then
continued their tour . . . on foot.

As they climbed to the top of a giant statue, Milo said, "We were never properly introduced. My name is Milo."

The princess smiled and said, "My name is Kidagakash."

"Kidagashma—" Milo tried. "You got a nickname?"

The princess laughed. "Kida," she said.

Milo looked out at the amazing view and sighed. "You know, my grandpa used to tell me stories of this place as far back as I can remember," he said.

Kida looked carefully at Milo. He seemed to care about her world. "Follow me," she said suddenly. "I am going to introduce you to Atlantis."

Milo pointed to the city below them. "There's more?"

"To know Atlantis, you have to know Atlanteans!" Kida replied.

On their way to the city center, they passed some Atlantean fishermen. "Hey," said Milo, looking squeamishly at their catch, "just like the lobsters back home. Only . . . different."

Kida led Milo to the bazaar in the city center, where Milo spotted another strange-looking Atlantean creature—some sort of baby whale. And it was on a leash! Milo discovered that this was a shemubin—an Atlantean pet.

"Why don't you feed him?" said the shemubin's owner, handing Milo a piece of fruit. The animal happily took the treat—and almost swallowed Milo's hand along with it. "He must like you," the owner said.

Milo tried to smile. "Guess I just have a way with animals."

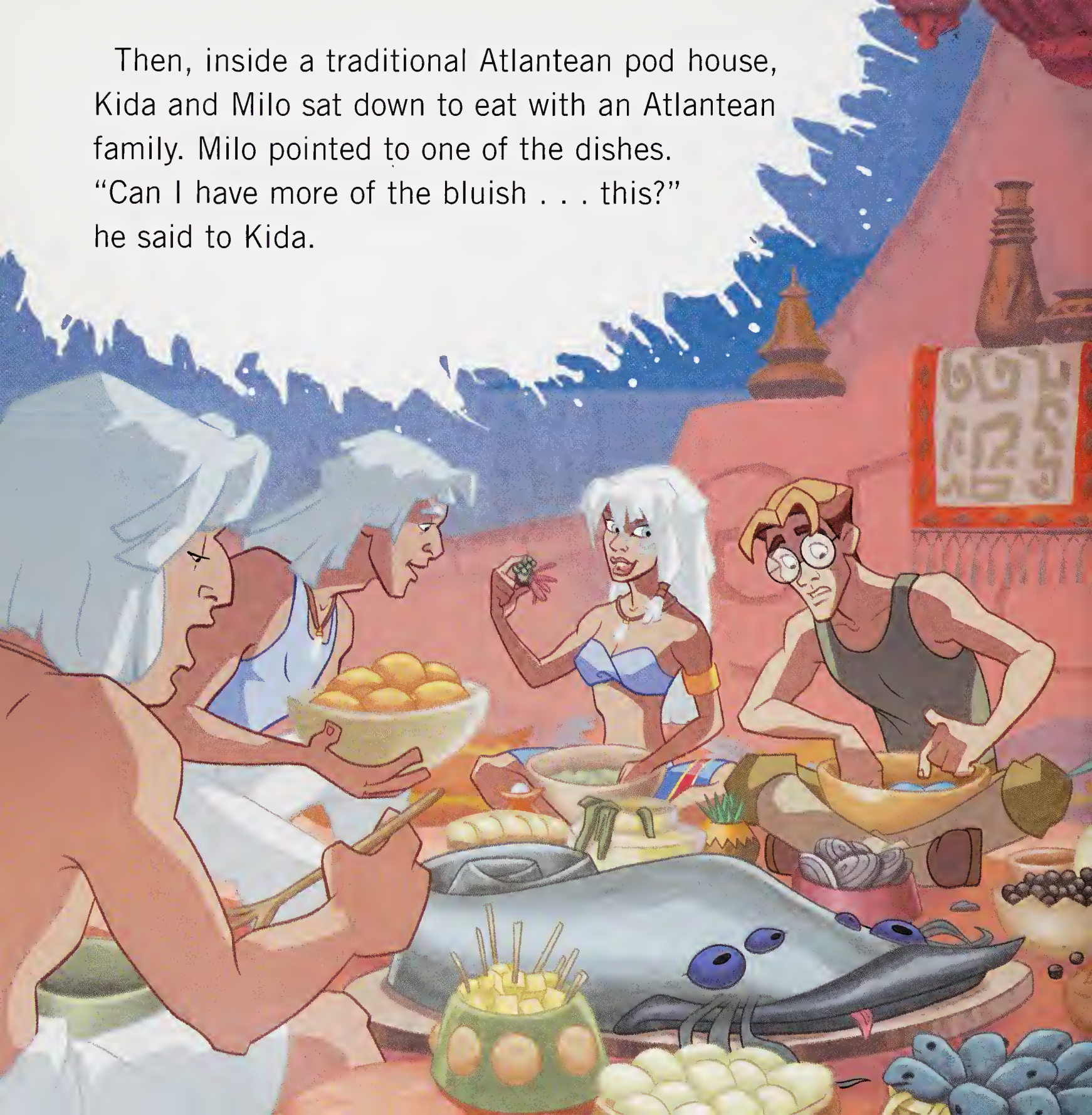
Beyond the bazaar, Kida and Milo watched as a group of Atlantean youngsters performed amazing jumps and flips in the air, using long poles to vault this way and that.

Milo picked up one of the poles. "Here's a game we play back home," he said, organizing the Atlanteans in a game of baseball.

"I hope I'm doing this right," Kida said as she prepared to bat. She swung at Milo's pitch and the ball sailed out of sight.

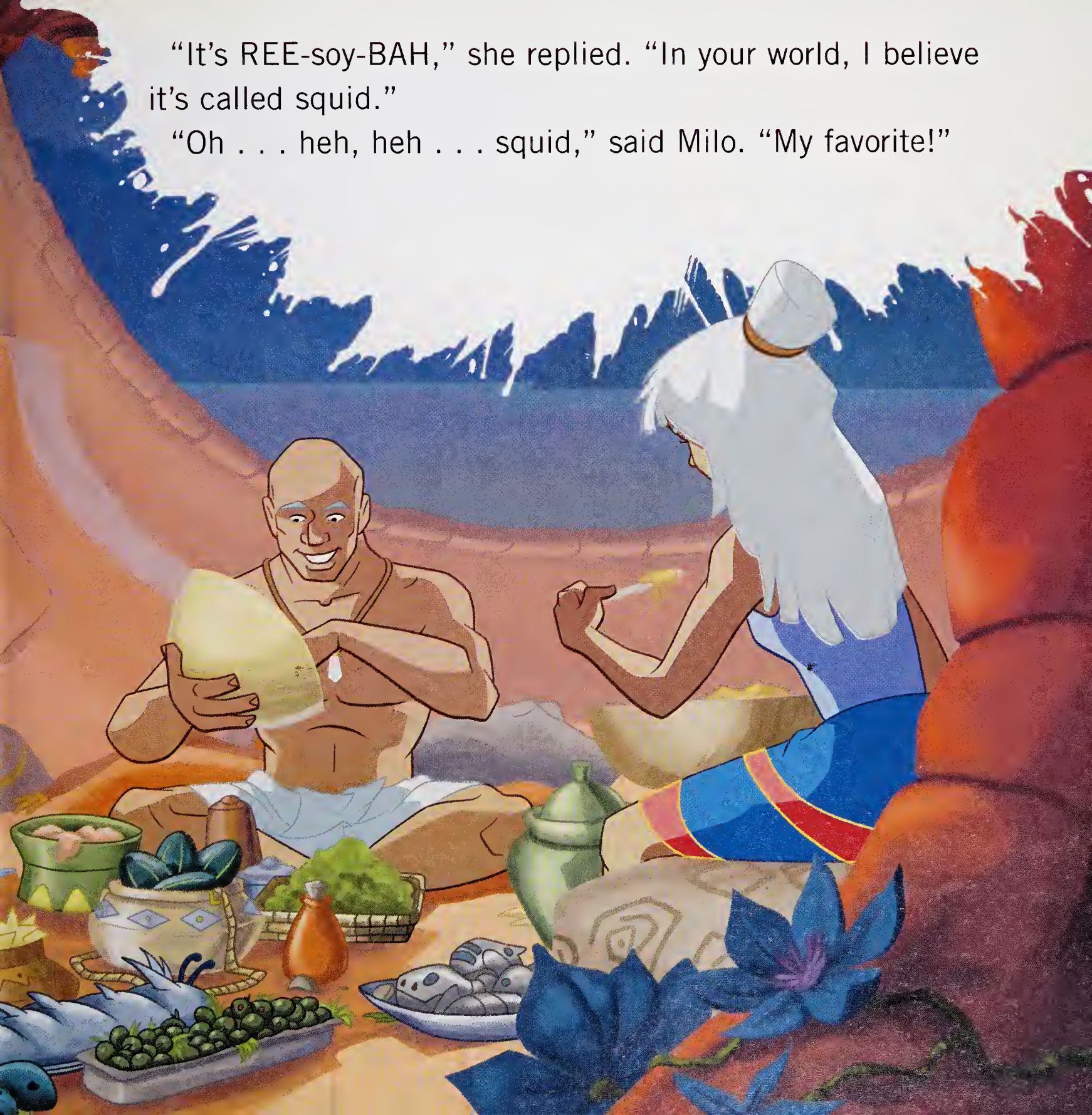
"Uh, yeah," said Milo. "I think you're getting it."

Then, inside a traditional Atlantean pod house, Kida and Milo sat down to eat with an Atlantean family. Milo pointed to one of the dishes. "Can I have more of the bluish . . . this?" he said to Kida.



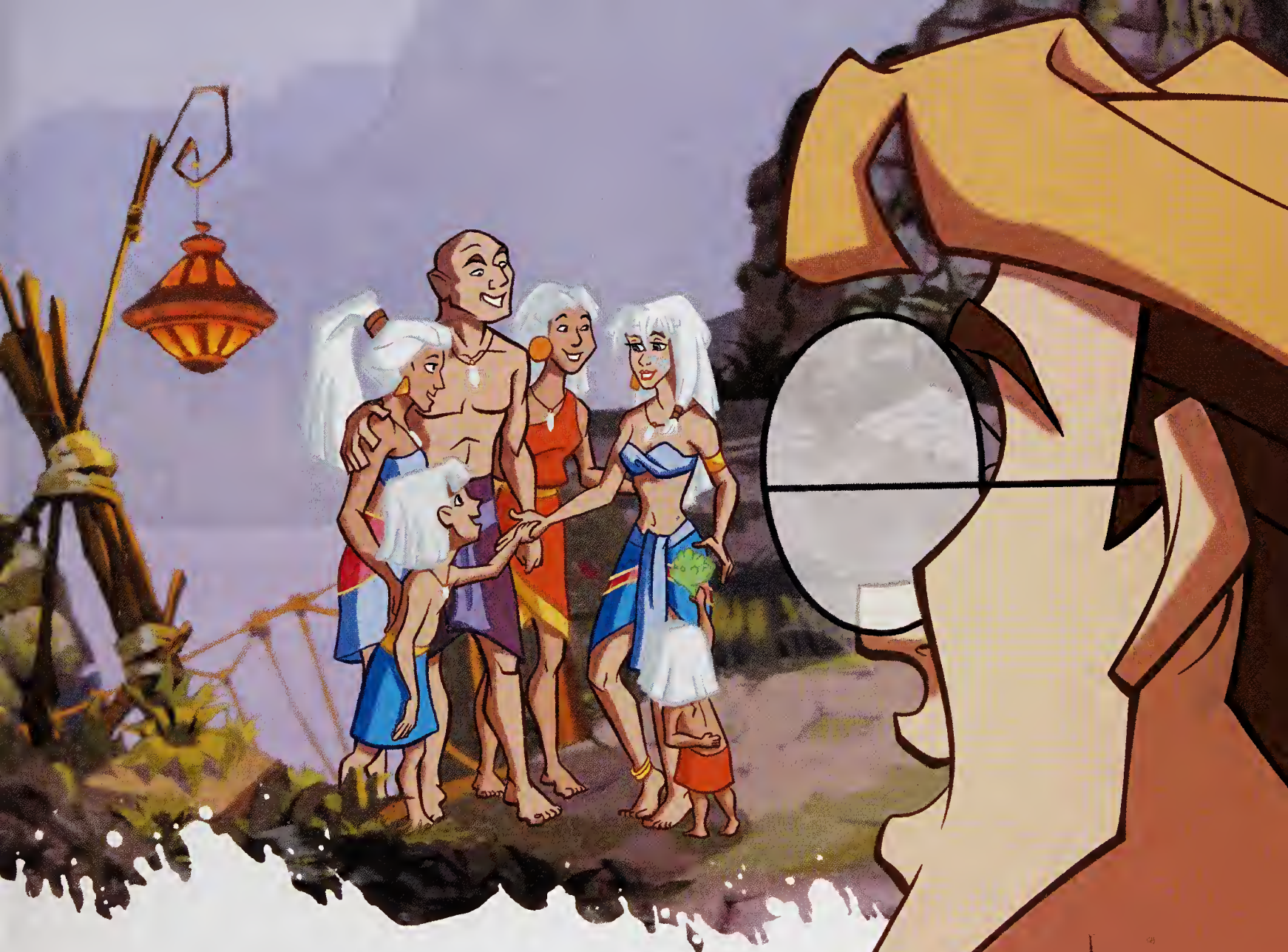
"It's REE-soy-BAH," she replied. "In your world, I believe it's called squid."

"Oh . . . heh, heh . . . squid," said Milo. "My favorite!"



Milo learned to like Atlantean food—well, most of it. But figuring out how to use Atlantean utensils wasn't so easy.

"Our ways are strange to you," Kida said with a smile. "But you are trying."



After dinner, Milo watched as Kida said good-bye to the family. It was easy to see how much they loved their princess, and easy to see why. *She is a courageous leader,* thought Milo, *but she is also kind and generous.*

At the end of their long and exciting day, Kida and Milo gazed at the peaceful city.

"I always believed that one day I would find Atlantis," Milo said. "But I never dreamed that I would meet you and your people. Thank you for showing me your world."

"No, it is I who should thank you," Kida replied. "At first I saw you as just an outsider. I did not think you were someone who could be my *preed,*" she said, using an Atlantean word.

"Friend?" Milo translated. He smiled as he caught a firefly for Kida. "Yes," he replied. "We are friends."

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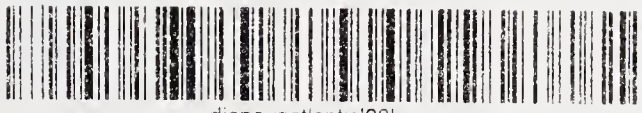

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Disney's

ATLANTIS

THE LOST EMPIRE

Milo has always dreamed of finding Atlantis. Now here he is, exploring the lost city with an Atlantean princess named Kida! Join Milo as he sees the sights, tastes the food, makes new friends, and discovers more about Atlantis than he ever imagined.

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